

THE
Bank of England.

And their Present
Method of Paying,

Defended from the
A S P E R S I O N S

Cast on them in a late Book,

ENTITLED,

A Review of the Universal Remedy for all Diseases incident to Coin. With Application to our present Circumstances. In a Letter to Mr. Locke.

L O N D O N.

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THE
Bank of England

And their presence

Method of ...

Identified 1 of 10

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...for all of the incidents...

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of the Book which I received from
 you, I shall make the best use of
 it, and I shall be glad to hear of
 its success.

the thoughts of their Complaints and
 his Performance, which is related to the
 Bank, without any other

T H E Design of the Author seems
 to be, to show the Bank, in their
 present Situation, to be a necessary
 and useful Institution, and to point
 out the Expeditious way to be taken
 for the better Management of the
 same.

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 present Situation, to be a necessary
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 same.

A N D T H E I R Method of
 Paying Defended, &c.

Method of Paying Defended, &c.

S I R,

T H E Defence of the Bank of
England, and their Present
 Method of Payment, will, I
 fear, seem at present so great a
 Paradox to the generality of people,
 that one might very well take a fair
 Estate from thence to save ones self
 the labour: But my sentiments of
 their Management being directly con-
 trary to those of the Town, which
 I find collected with a great deal of
 Prejudice against them by the Author

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of the Book which I receiv'd from
you; I shall make the less difficulty,
in answer to your desire, to send you
my thoughts of their Complaints and
his Performance, with Respect to the
Bank, without farther Apology.

The Design of the Author seems,
in short, (for I must ask his pardon
if I forbear to transcribe the length of
his Expressions) to prescribe a Remedy
for the present obstruction, and inter-
rupted Currency of our Coin. In or-
der to which, he sets himself to prove,
*That there is now in the Kingdom Good
Money sufficient, and more than suffici-
ent to answer our Expences, Commerce,
Markets; and, in fine, to make us all
easie in all our occasions.* And here ve-
ry much offers itself to be disputed,
even upon his own Computation: But
for quietness sake, and that we may
proceed, I shall at present suppose
with our Author that this is true.

Well, how comes it then that we
are in this Lamentable Condition, this
Woful Plight, that is the occasion of
such Tragical Exclamation? Why
then

these are the Reasons, says our Author. First, the Dilatory Payment of Notes by Goldsmiths, and others; and at last, for the greater respect, of Bank Notes. This he insinuates only as yet, the violent and great Charge is reserv'd till after. Secondly, The hoarding of the Weighby Money and Guinea's, is expectation that they will be rais'd the next Parliament. Thirdly, The hoarding of Money design'dly to keep up, and to take advantage of its scarcity. Fourthly and lastly, Having discharg'd the last Relicks of Veneration, which it seems he had been some time troubled with for the Bank of England, he lays it once more upon them, and indeed the endeavour to cast and fix the Blame upon them chiefly, after all his wandring and smooth Pretences, seems to be the great End, and main Design of his long Letter.

These being the Causes which our Author has laid down for the Reasons of the Present Scarcity of Money, I shall go on to give you my Remarks on them as briefly as possible.

The

The slow Payment of Notes by Goldsmiths and others, must needs be confess'd to be a great hindrance to the free Currency of Money: But that is ought to be attributed wholly or generally to their ill Management and dishonest Practices, as our Author would most charitably perswade us, I can by no means consent to; and shall take occasion to speak farther to, when I consider the Reasons for the slow Payment at the Bank of England.

The Hoarding of Guinea's and Weighty Money, in expectation of their being rais'd the next Parliament, is undoubtedly another Obstacle to the Circulation of the Coin: And whoever does so, it must be acknowledg'd that their Expectations are both very unreasonable, and extremely prejudicial to the Interest of the Nation; for which reason I shall freely turn them over to be Disciplin'd for their ill aim'd Obstinacy by our Author.

And pass to the other sort of Hoarders which he mentions: Such as hoard to take Advantage of the Scarcity, which

which they themselves occasion; and these are the men indeed for whom no terms are too disgraceful. Had our Author, instead of the Banley, discharged his Spleen against these unnatural Misers, he could scarce have said too much against them; at least I should never have interrupted his Declaration.

And thus at length we come to consider the force of his Charge against the Bank, and to examine the Justice of those Imputations, which he so harshly lays upon them; That the slow Payment of their Bills, is the chief reason for the present Hardship of the Money.

And here I shall without scruple confess, that the ready Payment of their Bills would be a great help to the free Passage of the Money. But this is not the Case: The Question is, Whether they have Money; I mean such as will give satisfaction; Will those who so impatiently demand Payment, be satisfy'd to take it, in the same sort of Money, which their Bills were

were given for 2 the greatest Part it is well known having been taken in, either in Clipp'd Money, or Gold at an overvalue: I know this cannot but be a very Offensive Question to these very hearty People; now that the Coin is in so much better condition, but if they will be pleas'd to consider if they have not yet absolutely resolv'd to be deaf even to Truth and Reason, if they appear in favour of the Bank. I say, if they will yet reflect calmly upon this Matter, they will soon find, that it is to this very Alteration of the Coin, and not to any Mismanagement of the Directors, that their present Slow Payment is owing, and by Consequence that they are as far from Dishonesty in their present acting, as our Author is from Truth and good Manners, in his false and groundless Aspersing of them.

However, let us trace this a little further, for the sake of some People.

It is well known, that just before the calling in of the old, adulterated, diminish'd Coin, the Bank had a very great

great number of Bills and Notes out
 against them, all which were readily
 answer'd in the Coin, to which they
 refer'd, the then currant Coin of the
 Nation, and which before the Par-
 liament began to take the Cure of
 the Money into their Consideration,
 was as readily accepted by those who de-
 manded Payment of them. Thus far then
 the Bank was honest, as honest as any
 that made Payments in the Kingdom.
 How came they then to alter their Me-
 thod? How came they that were but just
 now so honest and so punctual, to be-
 come to hazard their Reputation,
 their most advantageous Bottom; and
 expose themselves to these heavy Cen-
 sures? Why this, our Author, out of
 his profound Respect for so Consider-
 able a Body, cannot attribute to any
 thing, but either *their Mismanagement,*
 or *their Impotency, the effect of their*
Mismanagement; which he has very
 wisely noted to be the same thing. And
 upon this Chapter it is that our Author
 treats them without Mercy, though
 not without good Counsel, which h

is very full of: First gives them a stroke or two by way of Preparation, then reads them a Lecture of Morality, with an *O Tempora, O Mores!* Laces them, half *Latin*, half *English*; *Lucri bonus est Odor.* O detestable! bids them sell all they have, throw the Helve after the Harcher, Plate, Pallies, Bonds, Lands, any thing, every thing, rather than suffer this Dunning at their Door: and if they will do this, then all will be well. But if not, nay, if they do but intreat, tho in a manner never so languishing, for some Forbearance, some little Pity, this brings him upon them ten times more furious than before. O Vipers! Work Gentlemen, do as I bid you, or else you must expect no favour. And thus having reduc'd them to the lowest estate of wretched Mortals, given them some good advice, as proper to restore them as to cure the Tooth-ach, he leaves them to comfort themselves with Ends of Philosophy, and Scraps of Poetry,

But

But after all this, if our Angry Author will yet hearken, if a word or two may yet lay hold of him; Is he really in earnest in this matter, or has he only chose it as a fit subject to exercise his Talent on? Had his pretended Respect for the Bank, or but some Members of it been real, he might sure have found out some way to have determin'd this concern something more in their favour. I say, I cannot imagine but he might have found some appearance of Reason in a Case so plain, to have help'd them with on this occasion.

For my part, this I am confident of, that if he had made but any Enquiry, if he had asked any but their Mistaken, or their Malicious Enemies, the Reason of this *faultering*, as he terms it, in their Payments, they ~~and~~ needs have refer'd it to the Regulation of the Coyn, and the Method which has been taken to make good its Deficiency.

When a stop was put to the
 Currency of the old Money,
 and those who had accepted it
 but just before, refused to take
 it any longer; what could the
 Bank do on this Occasion?
 They had no other way but to
 stand still till the Business was
 determin'd, and when all other
 ways of disposing of the Mo-
 ney they had by them, except
 to vast loss, was shut up, but
 that of throwing it into the
Exchequer, I cannot for my life
 imagin how they could have
 excus'd themselves, if they had
 not, with the whole Kingdom
 made use of the Opportunity.
 From which it evidently ap-
 pears, that it was Necessity and
 the

the publick Good, and not any private advantage that oblig'd them to throw their Money by way of Loan into the Kings hands.

But let us follow this yet a little further, for the sake of our Author, who seems as if he wink'd hard on purpose to mistake in this matter. The small Money being thus forc'd into the *Exchequer*, what could be expected of the Bank, till they were supply'd from thence again, they could not make Brick without Straw, to pay new Money while they had it not was impossible; from whence too it easily follows, that when they should have it, they were oblig'd

oblig'd both in Wisdom and Justice to order their Payments according to their Receipts of it, which is by Parcels and by Time, so that every one might have a little; that is, in plain terms, to act as they do, since they can do no better. Had our Author consider'd this, as I am sure he ought to have done, he might easily have seen, that it is the *Hardship of the Time and the unavoidable consequence of the reinfating of the Coin* that occasions this Difficulty, and not any ill Design of the Bank or the Goldsmiths, as was said. I am sure his not considering of it gives too great an occasion to question either his Understanding or his Sincerity. And

And now, Sir, if you have yet any doubt of the partiality, to say no worse of this Writer, I desire you would look over the Apology, which he says they are so ready to make for themselves on this occasion, page 10 of his Book, and observe how disingenuously he passeth it over without an answer, instead of which he only directs them, as if their Fortunes were at his disposal, to sell all they have, that so they might increase the publick hardship with their particular Ruin.

Oh, but says he again, if they had call'd in their 40 per cent upon the first lease of their Distress, that would have sav'd

sav'd their Credit and kept them
 in Reputation. But can he be-
 lieve himself, when he reflects
 once more upon this Proposal?
 Can he think the calling in of
 480000 Pounds in Bills only
 from one part of them, would
 have satisfy'd the other that
 demanded to be paid in Mo-
 ney; the bare Proposal of this
 Chimera is Answer enough to
 it, without giving it any further
 consideration.

Page 56. But let them call
 in the 40 per cent. now says our
 Author, retaining the 20 per
 cent. which they have borrow'd
 upon courtesie. And what then?
 Why then, says he, having
 given such a Pledge to the world
 I will

of their Integrity, every Body
 will return to them, and throw
 their Money into their Hands
 again, as they did at the be-
 ginning; and here indeed the
 Author has at last found the
 true way to oblige his Friends
 the Members of the Bank, and
 to bind them to him for ever.
 But suppose if the Bank sh^d
 do this, yet People should not
 bring their Money so fast to
 them as he promises, but not-
 withstanding this great Pledge
 should rather chuse to keep
 themselves to answer their more
 pressing occasions. I say what
 would our Author say to this;
 what Recompence could he
 make these Friends of his, after
 they

they had so strained themselves
to no purpose to oblige others.
Why, if it may be, good man,
he would hold up his Hands,
exclaim upon their Ingratitude,
and then send em to the very
Beasts for more humane Exam-
ples.

Page 58 he lets them to cast
up their accounts, and to con-
sider their affairs, as if they had
been hitherto as undrinking and
as wild as *Epicurus* his Atoms;
and then if they cannot pay rea-
dy money to allow interest for
Forbearance; in which our Au-
thor discovers himself extream-
ly ignorant in the Business he
pretends to, for had he taken
never

never so little pains he might soon have learn'd, that whoever has Notes to the value of 100 Pounds, may when he pleaseth exchange them for Interest Bills; but I perceive he is resolv'd to order this matter according to his own fancy, tho' it sets him never so much beside the *Cushion*.

But his most endearing kindness for the Bank, as well as the great expedient for the restoration of the Money comes at last, all his other laid aside, and that is the total decaying of the Bank, and that they shall pay nothing at all but Interest; and this he thinks would set

is all upon our Legs again. But how in the name of Goodness can this be, does their paying some money, make greater scarcity than if they paid none, will they who think it so hard to receive but a little now, be indeed better satisfy'd to receive none at all. Impotent Director!

But, says he, if their Bills or Notes, which is the same with him, had no currency, then it must be Money; but what can he mean by their having no currency. However, they are order'd still, those that own them, will have the propriety, and by consequence a right to the

the disposal of them, under
what form soever they are con-
sider'd. For my part, except
they could pay more money,
I don't know how they can
act better than they do at
present, and I think it need
not be suspected, but that
they will pay more as soon
as they are able, least of
all that they designedly keep
up a scarcity which they them-
selves are such great suf-
ferers by: In the mean time
they must have patience, the
best Remedy for us all, *till*
Time, the further considera-
tion of the Parliament, and
the Success of the Publick
Affairs, bring this great Con-
cern

cern to an issue, which that it
may be honorable and happy, is
the hearty desire of

S I R,

Your Servant,

P. H

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